

Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society

Affiliated to the RSGB.

*President: Dick Brocks G3WHR
Secretary: Charles Shelton G0GJS*

Club Call Sign: G0MWT

*Chairman: John Bowen G8DET
Treasurer: Brian Thwaites G3CVI*

Newsletter No. 403

August 1999

The August Meeting

Once again we are calling upon technical expertise from within the Club. This month CARL G3PEM will be telling us the latest news on fibre optics. As the operating wavelength is far shorter than the highest amateur frequency allocation it is intended his talk will be of general communication interest without much reference to radio. He has a wide knowledge of the subject gained whilst working in the medium and hopes to explain the principles behind the components employed in this relatively new mode and how they effect our daily lives.

Join us then at 7.30pm on Tuesday August 3rd at the MASC Beehive Lane. for yet another 'home grown' specialist talk by a Club Member

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

August 1 RSGB Rally Hatfield House (August Radcom P.21)
August 8 Derby Radio Rally. Pastures Hill Littleover
August 8 Flight Refuelling ARS Hamfest Wimborne
August 29 Milton Keynes ARS Rally Bletchley Park
August 29 Torbay ARS Rally. Churston School Brixham
August 30 Huntingdonshire ARS Ernulf School St. Neots

STOP PRESS 1.

Cars Web Site

Chairman John G8DET using considerable skill and much wringing of hands has set up a Club Web Site. It is to be found at the address below. It was on line in time to advertise the Table Top Sale and now instead carries a notice regarding next months talk by Carl G3PEM.

Not on line yet?: never mind perhaps you may care to pass on the web address to someone who might be interested.

www.g0mwt.free-online.co.uk

STOP PRESS 2

Club Sensus Forms.

Many thanks to those to have returned the census forms recently distributed. All members are strongly urged to return their completed forms to Carl G3PEM as soon as possible.

Carl is using the forms to produce a database of activities etc.. A list will be published which will give Members knowledge of interests and activities shared with others within the Club.

The suggestions made so far are being considered as will those of members yet to respond. You will appreciate however that suggested activities will take some time to be implemented, But they will all be considered by the committee.

STOP PRESS.3

Did you know that our Treasurer Brian G3CVI and Eric G8ADX have written an article which will interest those members about to indulge in 'pictures by radio'.

They are the authors of an article in the June issue of RIG magazine. In particular it covers setting the configuration screen particularly when using a Pentium PC with JVFAX 7.1 but with many useful tips of general interest.

STOP PRESS.4

Have you read the article in the current Radcom by resident propagation expert Gwyn G4FKH.- Club member Gwyn is vice chairman of the Propagation Studies Committee and is responsible for providing propagation background information and input/output parameters for the new prediction process.

Members will recall Gwyn gave us an informative talk on the Solar cycle and propagation matters in August last year.

Last Month's Meeting Table Top Sale.

This new venture in Club activities proved to be very popular amongst Club members and the various visitors that came to the MASC to sell, to buy or just to look at what was on offer. Very many and varied things there were, to please the eye and the pocket: ranging from complete rigs down to enough parts to build one.

Enthusiasm of the buyers was such that a number of transactions took place while the vendors were still setting up and before Chairman John had declared the event open.

A dozen or so Club members took advantage of the opportunity to rid themselves and their shacks of numerous surplus items: but no doubt in the nature of things, a few, as I did, purchased something else instead to sit on the shelf until it comes in handy.

We were also glad to welcome a number of visitors from other Clubs who came to sell and to buy and we thank them all very much for supporting the event and hope to see them again when hopefully we will hold another sale in the future.

Final figures are not available yet in terms of proceeds but Club funds are expected to swell somewhat when Members donations and table fees are added to the well supported raffle. At this stage the writer is aware that sufficient funds have passed to the treasurer to at least pay the rent for the evening and that does NOT include profits from the Raffle. More donations are known to be following.

The writer would like to thank those Club members who were able to support the evenings events by spending their hard earned cash or by just being there. Thanks to Chris IPU and David BQC for the use of their eagle eyes and to all who contributed to the evening especially that chap with the wheelbarrow, without whose help I would probably still be clearing up. Colin GoTRM

PS. Would you like a similar event in the future?

Servicing Electronic Equipment - Geoff G7KLV

Many years ago I coveted the set of Radio & Television Service books in the library. Incidentally, the early ones were edited Pat Hawker G3VA, of TT fame! With much patience and a little investment I have since been able to collect the full set going back to the early fifties, except for the last two volumes. Before the proliferation of imported goods you could almost guarantee to find the circuit you wanted within their pages. Since the mid-seventies the chances of finding the circuit for imported items has dropped, and a trip to the library is often necessary to borrow the manufacturers service sheets. The library does, however, provide an excellent service.

During a recent Open day at Sandford Mill an Eddystone was presented to Geoff Bowles. This was the one fitted with the LW BC band and VHF FM in addition to the SW bands. Apart from a little audio noise it was dead. Reference to the circuit in the R&TV books revealed that it used the early Mullard germanium transistors OC170 and AF 11X series. These early transistors had an internal screen normally connected to earth. The collectors on three transistors were at zero volts. Many years ago I learnt the way of dealing with that particular problem! Simple, just snip the screen connections to the transistors thus isolating them from earth. Magic! Working on all bands! Just as a precaution I snipped the leads on the remaining RF/IF transistors.

(Does anyone else have similar useful tips to pass on? Write to the editors now and we will compile a list for publication)

Amongst the left-overs from Ela's grand sale was an elderly Bush BC RX which must have been the family set in the Second Avenue days. It was loose in it's cabinet and minus one valve and with a notice 'knobs inside! There were two labels, in Roy's neat hand, recording servicing in 1960 and 64! Once again the R&TV books saved the day. Good thing really because this early VHF FM and AM receiver was a most unusual one. The valve line up for this type of set had become standardised very quickly with a double triode for VHF amplification and mixing, a triode hexode for AM frequency changing with the hexode used for IF amplification on VHF and a further pentode for IF amplification followed by the triple diode-triode for AM and FM modulation.

However this Bush was quite different! It used two pentodes for the RF Amp and self oscillating mixer. The FM IF was 19.5 Mc/s, not the usual 10.7Mc/s. The triode of the triode-hexode was used as an extra audio stage on FM only, presumably compensating for the lower audio output of the discriminator at the higher than usual IF. Because of this the switching was more complicated than usual. On fitting the missing valve it sprung to life on FM but the AM side refused to budge. Closer inspection inside showed signs of being Martyred! For some reason he had modified the switching of the mixer triode so it didn't function as the frequency change oscillator on AM. With restoration to the original circuit the AM side perked up! The other interesting thing about this set was the fact that the only tuneable circuit in the VHF front end was the oscillator. They probably considered that adequate image protection could be obtained with the higher IF without a tuned RF stage which the traditional circuit with the lower IF frequency required. A wipe over with cabinet restorer and it would grace any living room! Much more interesting than today's black plastic offerings! *(Continued.)*

A Club net is held on the **second** Tuesday of each month starting at 8.30pm clock time using 145.325MHz plus minus QRM. On the 3rd & 4th Tuesdays the frequency is 28.325MHz again at 8.30pm.

Geoff G3EDM is controller for August then Ken G3PMW, then Harry G5HF with David M0BQC for November then Chris G0IPU and Colin G0TRM for January. All nets are preceded by 15 minutes of CW for practice purposes on 28.325MHz hosted by Charles G0GJS. Would like to take control ?call G0TRM

Science Museum Open Day. Colin G0TRM

Numerous CARS members helped to make yet another attendance at the open day a success. Of the 1300 or so visitors who came to the site most of them it seemed visited the Marconi hut to see our station in operation. The Mayor and Mayoress and their party showed much interest in the proceedings and discussed the QSL cards the Borough Council had sponsored as a result of much help from Dr. Geoff Bowles.

Using the special callsign GB800CC some 120 stations were contacted. Although conditions were not too good amateurs in Canada and in Russia gave us good signal reports as did stations in Scotland and Devon and Cornwall and other special event stations operating that day.

Brian G3CVI would like to thank all those who helped on the day and before with erecting the antenna and obtaining the special callsign.

Mistaken Identity - Part 2 Wally G3MCO

Playing Golf with 3 spin - doctors from the Anglican Church; Mike, Charlie and Oscar, we were assured that this multinational communication organisation has no connection with Anglepoise Television. They wish to inform Charles, G0GJS, Major Bloodnock, Eccles, Bluebottle, Neddy Seagoon and other disinterested parties that their only interest in this provider of misinformation is to ensure that their Bishops and Curates have at least as much screen time as those silver-tongued, sartorially elegant radio operators from C.A.R.S.!

The Last Retort - by Charles G0GJS

It's possible that at some time you may have the misfortune to meet up with Jeremy Paxman or a person of similar disposition and perhaps an hour or so later wish you had retorted on the following lines. However before indulging in such repartee it's wise to practise ducking and your best left hook.....

Bessie Braddock to Winston Churchill as he lurches out of the Commons bar,

"Disgraceful!! You're very drunk Prime Minister".

"Yes Madame I am and you are very ugly, but I shall be sober in the morning!"

Managing Director of leading UK Electronics Company to Controller (Navy) at Greenwich Seminar, "Lyndsay, if I may say so, you were rather devious in that speech to Industry about defence procurement."

Was I Arthur? Wellyou and I have known each other for a very long time so some of it must have rubbed off!"

Response to complaining CARS member,

"So you don't like the way I carry out my secretarial duties.... May I offer you the job?"

The Society

The Society meets on the first Tuesday of each month at the Marconi Athletic and Social Club in Beehive Lane Chelmsford, starting at 7.30pm. The Club Membership fee is £8 annually. Free to Members under 16. No door fee is payable. A Club net operates on the second Tuesday of the month using 145.325MHz and 28.325MHz on the following Tuesday evenings each starting at 8.30pm clock time. This newsletter is posted free to members each month. Members may also advertise goods for sale free of charge. The Club has a stock of quality test gear that members may borrow for station checking.

Committee meeting The next Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, 11th August at 7.30pm at the QTH of John, G8DET.

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• Joint Editors •
• Colin G0TRM 01245-223835 •
• Geoff G7KLV 01245-473822 •
• 64, Vicarage Lane, Gt. Baddow CM2 8HY •
• **Deadline for the September N/L is Monday 23rd August** •
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